

wish to save him ! Yet that is the way your grandfather defended Louis XVI. . . . As to the confiscation you speak of, what does that prove ? Nothing. Why, the property of Robespierre was confiscated ! And let me tell you that Robespierre himself, Marat, and Danton did much less mischief to France than M. Necker. It was he who brought about [Revolution. You, Monsieur de Stael, did not see this ; but I did. I witnessed all that passed in those days of terror ; public calamity. But as long as I live those days shall not return. Your speculators trace their Utopian schemes upon paper and fools read and believe them. All are babbling about general happiness, and presently the people have not bread to eat ; then comes a revolution. Such is usually the fruit of these fine theories ! Your grandfather was the cause of saturnalia which desolated France. He is responsible for the blood shed in the Revolution ! "

Duroc informed me that the Emperor uttered these words in a tone of fury which made all present tremble young De Stael. Fortunately the young man did not lose self-possession in the conflict, while the agitated expression of his countenance evidently showed what was passing in his mind. He was sufficiently master of himself to reply to the Emperor in a calm though rather faltering voice : " Sire, permit me to hope that posterity will judge of my grandfather more favorably than your Majesty does. During his administration he was ranked by the side of Sully and Colbert ; and let me repeat again that I trust posterity will render him justice." — "Posterity will, probably, say little about him." "I venture to hope the contrary, Sire."

Then, added Duroc, the Emperor turning to us said with a smile, " After all, gentlemen, it is not for me to say too much against the Revolution since I have gained a throne by it. Then again turning to M. de Stael he said, "The reign of anarchy is at an end. I must have subordination. Restore the sovereign authority, since it comes from God.<sup>1</sup> You are

<sup>1</sup> This belief in the Divine origin of power was dear to the mind of Napoleon. Napoleon was also much impressed with the idea of deriving the origin of supreme authority from the Divinity. He said to me one day at Compiègne, shortly after his marriage with the Archduchess, " I see that the